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Provisional summary record (partial)* of the 22nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 7 July 2008, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Lima (Vice-President) ..... (Cape Verde)

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting. A panel discussion was conducted.

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In the absence of Mr. Mérorès (Haiti), Mr. Lima (Cape Verde), Vice-President, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2007 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/21)

1. **The Vice-President**, opening the coordination segment, recalled that the Council, in its decision 2007/261, had decided to focus its attention during that segment on reviewing implementation of the ministerial declaration of the 2007 high-level segment, entitled "Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development". The complex challenge of reducing poverty and hunger should be addressed from a broad perspective including rural and agricultural development, employment creation, enterprise development, sustainable development, science and technology, trade and financing for development as key elements of a comprehensive pro-poor development strategy for achieving Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

2. The report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/2008/21 and the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265, including resolution 61/16 (E/2008/77), provided a useful basis for discussion. The 2008 coordination segment gave the Council an opportunity to assess and provide guidance on the United Nations system approach to supporting the implementation of Goal 1.

3. There had been great progress in advancing system-wide coordination in the implementation of the United Nations development agenda based on the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. However, a more comprehensive policy framework for follow-up to the various elements of the agenda was needed. To that end, the Council should identify ways to strengthen the link between the normative and policy work of its functional commissions and the programmatic and operational activities of the governing bodies of United Nations system organizations. The debate on that matter should take place in the broader context of the Council's new functions: the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum.

4. **Mr. Stelzer** (Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations system in implementing the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2007 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/21), said that the review of United Nations system support for implementation of the MDGs would make an important contribution to the high-level events taking place in the General Assembly in autumn 2008.

5. While recognizing the progress made at the intergovernmental level in recent years regarding the impact of different policy areas on eradicating poverty and hunger, the 2007 ministerial declaration had underscored the multidimensional nature of that problem. Its message was that those policy areas should be treated as integral to comprehensive, pro-poor national development strategies and as a framework for action for all development partners. As the eradication of poverty and hunger was the core objective of the United Nations development agenda, Goal 1 was at the centre not just of targeted United Nations system activities, but of a wider range of development activities.

6. To promote a unified response to the unfolding global food security crisis, the Secretary-General had established a High-Level Task Force which had developed a Comprehensive Framework for Action. The challenge was to implement the related measures and to identify short- and medium-term funding sources. Since the 2006 ministerial declaration on the theme "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development", the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) had adopted a Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work into the policies, programmes and activities of the system.

7. The United Nations system approach to the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations was to advocate against premature liberalization that would harm the most vulnerable groups in society. Trade

liberalization should be accompanied by other policies aimed at strengthening production in countries at an early stage of development. The Accra Accord, which had emerged from the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII), highlighted the many problems faced by developing countries in their efforts to integrate successfully into the international economic and financial system and set out a detailed agenda for progress in economic and social development, in areas such as commodities, trade, debt, investment, science and technology. United Nations support for the Aid for Trade initiative focused on building developing countries' capacity to use trade to expand economic growth and employment.

8. Despite the progress made, there was a need for further effort to integrate sustainable development, science and technology and financing for development into the United Nations system approach to eradicating poverty and hunger. The sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development had highlighted the need for a closer link between action taken against poverty and hunger and efforts to promote more sustainable patterns of production and consumption. In the field of financing for development, while the United Nations system had helped strengthen developing countries' capacity to assess their resource needs, attract and manage international resources and generate domestic resources to finance poverty reduction strategies, it could do more to help them address sectoral imbalances in resource allocation and investment decisions. The recent session of the Development Cooperation Forum and the upcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (Doha Review Conference) would further advance support and coordination.

9. The Secretary-General had emphasized the need to measure results and strengthen accountability for implementation as essential for achieving the MDGs; he had also sought to focus more closely on the development of Africa. Accordingly, he had established the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Gap Task Force and the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Africa Steering Group. Both bodies would make an important contribution to the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, to be held on 25 September 2008.

A discussion covered in the summary record ended at 3.25 p.m.

A panel discussion on the topic of "Working towards food security: the United Nations system approach" followed. The panel was chaired by Mr. Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima (Cape Verde), Vice-President of the Council, and moderated by Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs. The panellists were Mr. John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, in his capacity as Coordinator of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis; Mr. Themba N. Masuku, Director, Food and Agriculture Organization Liaison Office with the United Nations; Mr. Allan Jury, Director, Division of External Relations, World Food Programme; Ms. Julia Howard, Executive Director, Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa; and Mr. Christopher Delgado, Adviser, Agriculture and Rural Development, World Bank.